



05/19/04

Express Mail No. ER452516135US
Attorney Docket No.: AM-2772.P1

1763
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Ajay Kumar et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/882,823- **323**

FILED: June 13, 2001

FOR: METHOD OF ETCHING SILICON NITRIDE

§ GROUP ART UNIT: 1763
§
§ EXAMINER: A. W. Olsen
§
§
§ Attorney Docket No.:
§ AM-2772.P1

Date: May 18, 2004

**RESPONSE "A" UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

**Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**


Sir:

Transmitted herewith is applicants' Response "A" to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response of April 23, 2004. This Response "A" is accompanied by a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, to extend the period for response through May 24, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ER452516135US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment (With Fee), Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: May 18, 2004


Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

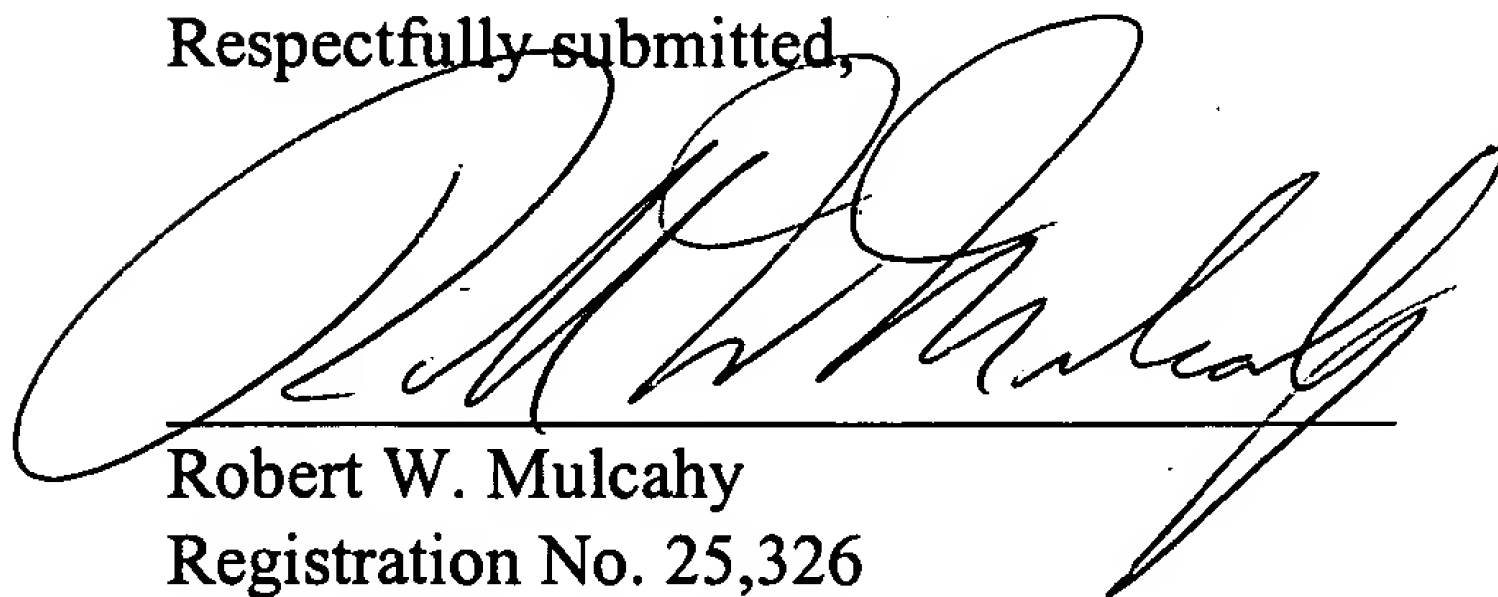
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER <u>AMENDMENT</u>		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY <u>PAID FOR</u>		PRESENT <u>EXTRA</u>		<u>RATE</u>	ADDITIONAL <u>FEE</u>
TOTAL CLAIMS	87	minus	87	=	0	x	\$18.00	\$ 00.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	8	minus	8	=	0	x	\$86.00	\$ 00.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			0				\$290.00	\$ 00.00
ONE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME								\$ 110.00
							TOTAL FEE DUE	\$ 110.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$ 110.00, in payment of the fee for the One Month Extension of Time, as well as any additional fees which may be due, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-1074 of Applied Materials, Inc., Santa Clara, California.

This transmittal letter is submitted in duplicate for accounting purposes.

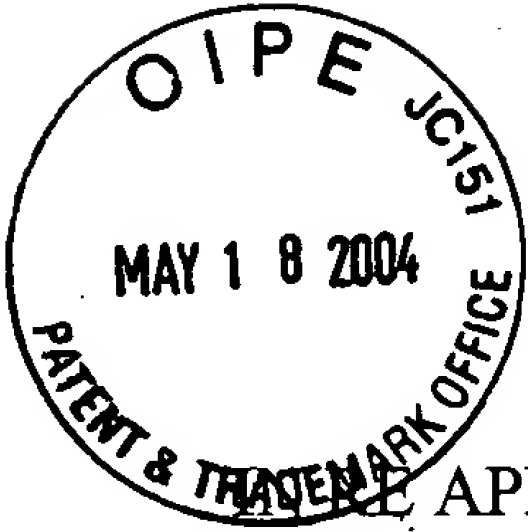
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Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. W. Mulcahy', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Mulcahy
Registration No. 25,326
Attorney for Applicants

Correspondence Address:
Patent Counsel
Applied Materials, Inc.
P.O. Box 450-A
Santa Clara, California 95052



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This Response "A" is to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response of April 23, 2004. This Response "A" is accompanied by a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, to extend the period for response through May 24, 2004.

Claims 1 - 87 are pending in the application.

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Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

Claims 1 - 28 and 57 - 67 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,721,090, to Okamoto et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,392, to Nozaki et al.

Claims 29 - 56 and 68 - 87 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,617,257, to Ni et al., in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0076935, of Maex et al.